

Hi

W I N T E R 2 0 0 3

Neighbor!

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS
OF THE ROCK CREEK WOODS COMMUNITY



NewsBriefs

STOP SPEEDING!



Concerns have been raised about a few drivers who have been speeding down Rickover Road and who are residents. There have been some close calls. In the interest of the safety of children and pets, this needs to stop. **PLEASE SLOW DOWN.** You know if this applies to you.



National Historic Registry

The date for the submission of final materials to RCWA's application to the National Register has been delayed until November 24. There have been some additional materials requested since our earlier submission. RCW will be submitting with a couple properties from Takoma Park as the first submissions under this category. We are scheduled to make a presentation before the Historic Preservation Committee on December 17. If approved, individual homeowners would be eligible to apply for rehabilitation tax credits beginning on January 1, 2004.

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This is the third in a series of profiles of three gentlemen who will be remembered fondly in neighborhood for years to come.

Ralph Reeser (3702 Spruell) was born in Alaska to a military family. He grew up there as well as in Omaha and Seattle where he graduated from the University of Washington. After graduation, Ralph moved to Washington, D.C. to attend law school at George Washington University. It was there that he met his wife, Martha, who was born in Venezuela and had been working at the Venezuelan Embassy. During the 1950's, Ralph served in the Air Force and began his career in the federal government as a specialist in

Fondly Saying Our Goodbyes

Remembrances

housing legislation for Indian tribes with the agency that eventually became the Department of Housing and Urban Development. When Martha and Ralph decided to search for their first house, four months after their oldest son, Ronnie, was born, they settled on Rock Creek Woods. They moved into 3702 Spruell in 1960 joining the other original owners of the new neighborhood. Their section of the development was among the last to be built and they bought extra land behind their house.

In the 1960's, Ralph transferred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs where he worked until his retirement in 1989 on Indian-related legislation. This included measures affecting Indian self-determination, education, child welfare, gaming, community colleges and tribal recognition. At the time

of his retirement, he was Director of Congressional and Legislative affairs for the Bureau. Their second son, Roger, was born in 1965. In 1986, Ralph urged Martha to develop a hobby and she tried her hand at many before she found something she really liked — porcelain painting. For the last 16 years she has been producing prize-winning art work which fills her house. Her work has been featured in porcelain magazines and she teaches others her painting techniques. Martha has developed a specialty of using raised paste with intri-



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A Big Hello!

We'd like to welcome some of the newcomers to the neighborhood and provide an introduction. There are a number of new folks so it may take us several issues to introduce everyone! In upcoming issues, we'd also like to feature some of the folks who've been fixtures in the neighborhood for years. The opportunity to get know your neighbors is one of the unique aspects of Rock Creek Woods and one of the things that keeps it such a vibrant neighborhood.

Janice Lythcott and Harvey Hill are the new residents of 3940 Rickover Road (formerly the home of Elaine Baldwin). Hailing most recently from Philadelphia, they moved to DC in July of this year. Both have lived in the DC area before (Janice is a graduate of Howard University) and they are happy to be back in an area they love where they have lots of friends and family.

Janice is an avid cook and gardener and Harvey loves to golf. They both enjoy entertaining and have frequent dinner parties in their new home. Professionally, Janice is used to pleasing much larger crowds as the Director of Marketing and Event Management for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. Harvey is currently Director of Advertising for the Baltimore Sun and was previously at the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Harvey has three children and is frequently on traveling Dad duty visiting daughters Darby, 9, and Ashley, 15, in Philadelphia and his son Dax, 16, in Greensboro, NC.

When asked what drew them to the neighborhood, Janice said that the ad described the home as a "treehouse". She says that visitors frequently remark about the beauty of the natural surroundings and the uniqueness of the homes. The neighborhood is "a hidden jewel" and they are loving it.

Ann and Don Byrne recently moved into 3936 Rickover Road (formerly the Crenca's home), making the transition from Bethesda to be a little bit closer to their three young grandchildren in Kensington. Their son had been keeping an

eye out for a house in the area and spotted the *For Sale By Owner* sign. The Byrne's daughter, **Deidre**, a former dancer with the Cleveland Ballet, is currently living with them while going to the University of Maryland, teaching dance at the Maryland Youth Ballet and working with a local modern dance company.

Don is an avid photographer and Ann loves to read mysteries and follow dog shows. They travel to Ireland every year where they have a cottage that belonged to Ann's father. The Byrne's are very happy with a bit less room and a lot more light than their previous Maryland home. They love living in the woods and the friendly neighbors. Don works as an attorney with the Federal Aviation Administration and Ann is Director of the Montessori School at Crossway Community Kensington.

Pati Young is the most recent addition to the neighborhood at 3920 Rickover Road and the self-described "nice Jewish girl from DC" is thrilled to be a part of the community.

A clinical social worker and artist, Pati is self-employed and was looking for a space where she could comfortably have a home office. The layout and setting of the former Oshinsky home was a perfect match. She looks forward to many enjoyable hours painting in her office and meanwhile, has been busy attending to the details of decorating her new home and setting up her new office. Pati described Rock Creek Woods as a "little hidden secret" and said "buying this house has been wonderful — the house has really engaged me creatively."

You may have noticed and been intrigued by Pati's license plate: DIFRNT8. That is the name of her unique clothing line. Pati hand-paints wearable art and refashions women's clothing to make them more comfortable and feminine. She also enjoys creating personalized commissioned pieces. Pati uses clothing painting as her primary mode of working with clients in a psychotherapy process aimed at engaging their creativity.

Pati's joy for life is infectious and she is eager to get to know her neighbors. She loves to see art in all its many forms, travel, bake, and play bridge. In addition, as a first time owner of a single-family home, she is always looking for good homeowner advice.



Janice and Harvey



Pati



Don, Ann and Deidre

Rock Creek Recipes

from your neighbors and friends



Betsy Binckes will be collecting recipes from the neighborhood to share and eventually publish in a neighborhood cookbook. If you have a special recipe you'd like to share, contact Betsy at 301-946-5902 or e-mail jbinckes@aol.com.

John Everett's Chili

- 2 # Lean Ground Beef
- 2 large onions
- 3 to 6 cloves of garlic
- 1 1/2 T chili powder
- 1 T. cumin
- 1 T. coriander
- salt to taste
- 2 chopped chipolte
- 2 black peppers
- 2 large cans whole tomatoes
- 2 cans kidney beans
- 2 cups water
- 2 diced potatoes

Brown meat, add chopped onions and minced garlic. Sauté until onions are soft, transparent, and glistening. Add seasonings, tomatoes, water, and diced potatoes and simmer until seasonings are dispersed. Add beans 30 minutes before serving.

Zucchini Cornbread

From *The Laurel's Kitchen Bread Book*

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 1/2 cups cornmeal
- 1 to 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 to 2 large eggs, beaten
- 1 to 2 tablespoons oil
- 1 1/2 to 2 cups buttermilk
- 1 1/2 cups of grated zucchini

Sift the salt, baking powder, and soda together and combine with the cornmeal. Mix the wet ingredients together, and then add the dry, stirring just until smooth. Add the grated zucchini and mix until just combined. Turn into the greased pan and bake about 25 to 30 minutes. I prefer using a white stone ground corn meal.



Preheat oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit. Grease an 8" by 8" pan. Cornbread can also be baked in an iron skillet. If you choose to use the iron skillet, first grease pan and then place in oven until fat is melted and pan is hot, then pour in batter and bake for designated time.

Nature's Corner: Nancy's Garden and the Black Path

What a mess! Three trees down in Nancy's Garden, thanks to mushy soil from a rainy summer and Hurricane Isabel following a year of drought that weakened root systems. This was the biggest clean-up challenge since we started the garden.

Saturday, November 8th, to the rescue came **John Everett, Sterling** and **Jordan Scott** with power saws. It was a time-consuming and tricky job, as the trees had not fallen cleanly; one was balanced in a half-upright position, and one still remains resting on the branches of yet another dying tree. To bring them to the ground, we must wait for assistance from nature and gravity. While our lumberjacks went at the trees, **Dolores Battle, Tom Klein, Jim Roberts, Dick** and **Julie Marcis**, bagged brush and raked leaves.

Need firewood? Come get logs and sawn branches from the curb. More is for the taking further back and also by the black path. Help yourself!

On Nov. 21, **May Nakamura** and **Cordie Goldstein** trimmed the forsythia bushes, cleared a lot of brush from beneath them and also planted a bed of irises at the top of the Black Path. There are plans to put in ten more forsythia bushes in the Spring, and if anyone is interested in donating to this cause (\$20 per bush), make a check out to Milton Socolar (3916 Rickover Road), the RCWA treasurer. Thanks!

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Yard Sale Success!

Saturday, November 1, seventeen families in the Rock Creek Woods neighborhood participated in a yard sale (plus two church tables). The weather was beautiful, ads appeared in three newspapers and we had a big turnout. The result was that several people made quite a bit of money and everyone got rid of some of their "stuff". Thanks to *Barbara and John Everett* for donating the ad in the *Washington Post* and for placing balloons to mark the participating tables, to *Sarah Eresian* for preparing an excellent flyer before the event, to *Kelly Pelz* for her creative new signs, to *Kurt Eigner* and *Dick Pelz* for placing the signs, to *Brad Koltak* for gathering up some of the unsold items for donation to charity, to *Cordie Goldstein* for finding tables for people who didn't have their own.

Neighborhood Receives Award!

Jim Roberts and *Milt Socolar* represented the RCWA in accepting an award from the *Montgomery County Beautification Staff* for the entry sign to the development.

RCW Notecards for Sale

Cordie Goldstein handling the sale of notecards showing a lovely snow scene with our award-winning RCW entrance sign. They are \$10 per dozen or \$5 for six. Proceeds go to the neighborhood treasury. Quantities are limited. Contact Cordie at 301.949.0565 to order your set.

Notes from the RCWA

Wheaton Redevelopment *Kelly Pelz* reported that the project has taken off. The Westfield Shoppingtown (formerly Wheaton Plaza) has a new Giant that opened last month. The construction of Macy's new store is proceeding on schedule. There will be a Bally's Health Club near the Wachovia Bank and a Starbucks. We have been told there also will be stadium-seating movie theatres.

The sale of houses under construction is going rapidly. The Amherst Avenue townhouses have sold for as much as \$799,000.

In the Central Business District the small businesses near the Wheaton Triangle now have new awnings in their own colors. A concert was recently held to honor the late Chuck Levin, a strong promoter of the community who owned the nationally known music store which bears his name.

Shoney's restaurant on Veirs Mill is gone and there is hope that it will be replaced by a national restaurant chain, which one is not yet known.

One sad note is that the redevelopment Committee staff director—*Doug Wren*—has resigned. He will be missed, according to Kelly.

A study is being done of pedestrian

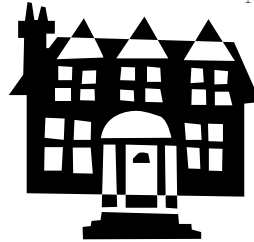
walkways in Wheaton to cut down on traffic fatalities. Kelly urges the neighborhood to respond to requests for citizen participation in such activities as this when she sends out a notice. We have had very little response so far and these are important issues for our community.

Labor Day Picnic Feedback *Betsy Binckes* reported on results of the questionnaire about the Labor Day picnic. Of 72 distributed, there were only 10 responses. We estimate that about half of the families in the neighborhood attend the annual picnic. The most common criticism related to the music.

Most wanted it eliminated or at least toned down. *Kathy Kennedy* attended the meeting because she and her husband are planning next year's picnic. There was some discussion about the changes needed and a motion was passed to

leave the decisions on entertainment to the planners of the event.

There was also a suggestion that we have a microphone for *Roseanne's* use at the next picnic since the announcements could not be heard last time. *Jeff Binckes* volunteered to check into the availability of microphones for rent or purchase.



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cate designs, studded with tiny enamel jewels.

Ralph continued to work on Indian issues as a consultant after his retirement. They traveled the United States, Europe and the Middle East where their son, Ronnie was living at the time. One of his most memorable trips was to

Egypt. Ralph died of cancer at home in July of 2002. Both sons live in Maryland, Ronnie in Burtonsville and Roger in Lusby. There is also a grandson, Kevin. Martha still paints porcelain but she has also taken up a new hobby, photography, and joined a women's exercise club.

— *Dolores Battle*